

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Special Study on Issues Related to
Flats Operations

Docket No. SS2022-1

CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

(Issued August 9, 2022)

To provide necessary background information to the Commission for the Flats Study,¹ the Postal Service shall provide written responses to the following questions. Answers should be provided to the individual questions as soon as they are developed, but no later than August 16, 2022.

Transportation

1. Please refer to Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP31, December 29, 2021, Zip file "USPS-FY21-NP31.zip," folder "Rule 3050.50 Flats," folder "Paragraph (e) -- Pinch Point Nonpublic Reports," folder "e.6 Surface Visibility," Excel file "SV.Reg.Scans.FY17_FY21.NonPublic.xlsx."
 - a. Please describe in detail the types of scans and the methodology for calculating the scans data included in the column "Expected" of each fiscal year workbook tab of the referenced file.
 - b. Please describe in detail the types of scans and methodology for calculating the scans data included in the column "Performed" of each fiscal year workbook tab of the referenced file.

¹ See Notice Initiating Proceeding for Flats Operation Study, July 14, 2022; *see also* Postal Service Reform Act, Pub. L. 117-108, 136 Stat. 1127, 1148 (April 6, 2022), Section 206(a)(1), available at <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ108/PLAW-117publ108.pdf>.

- c. Please confirm that in multiple tabs of the referenced file, the difference between the number of scans in the relevant cells of “Expected” and “Performed” columns equals the number of not performed scans. If not confirmed, please explain how the number of not performed scans can be calculated.
 - d. If question 1.c. is confirmed, please list the most common types of not performed scans that cause the scan compliance scores to be less than 100 percent, and explain why such scans were not performed. If the major types of such scans differ by fiscal year, please provide separate lists and explanations by fiscal year.
 - e. Please confirm that the scan data included in the referenced file represent scans only associated with Highway Contract Route (HCR) transportation and do not include scans associated with the Postal Vehicle Service (PVS) drivers, and/or any other type of transportation service.
 - i. If not confirmed, please list all transportation for which the Postal Service provides scan data in the referenced file.
 - ii. If confirmed, please explain whether the provided scan data include inter- and/or intra-Sectional Center Facility (SCF) transportation, inter- and/or intra-Network Distribution Center (NDC) transportation, for each category of HCR transportation (such as regular, emergency, extra, Christmas, and/or any other).
2. Please refer to Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP31, Zip file “USPS-FY21-NP31.zip,” folder “Rule 3050.50 Flats,” folder “Paragraph (e) -- Pinch Point Nonpublic Reports,” folder “e.6 Surface Visibility,” Excel file “NonPublic SV Data_FY17_FY21.xlsx.”
- a. Please confirm that in the tabs “Ontime Departure,” and “Ontime Arrival” of the referenced file the Postal Service calculates on-time departure

percentages for trucks, for which both departure and arrival time scans were performed. If not confirmed, please explain.

- b. Please confirm that in the tab “Load Percentage” of the referenced file the Postal Service calculates load percentages for the combined arriving and departing trucks for which applicable scans were performed.
 - i. If not confirmed, please explain.
 - ii. If confirmed, please explain which scans the Postal Service uses to determine the truck floor area.
 - iii. If confirmed, please also explain which scans the Postal Service uses to determine the truck floor area taken up by mail transport containers.
 - c. Please explain the numerator and the denominator values used to calculate load percentages in the tab “Load Percentage.”
 - d. For each container type shown in the tab “Utilization by Ctr” of the referenced file, please explain how the space utilization percentage is calculated. In your response, please also include a description of the numerator and denominator used to calculate the space utilization percentage for each container type.
3. Please refer to Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP31, Zip file “USPS-FY21-NP31.zip,” folder “Rule 3050.50 Flats,” folder “Paragraph (e) -- Pinch Point Nonpublic Reports,” folder “e.6 Surface Visibility,” Excel file “NonPublic NPA_Trips on Time Data_FY17_FY21.vh2.xlsx.”
- a. Please refer to tabs that include Surface Visibility National Performance Assessment Scores (SV NPA Score) for FY 2017 through FY 2021.²

² See tabs “FY21 SV NPA Data,” “FY20 SV NPA Data,” “FY19 SV NPA Data,” “FY18 SV NPA Data,” and “FY17 SV NPA Data.”

Please explain in detail how facility-specific SV NPA Scores included in the referenced tabs are calculated and what facility-specific input data are used in the calculation.

- b. Please refer to the tabs that include facility-specific data for trips on time.³
 - i. Please explain in detail how values for “Trips on Time Rate” are calculated and what facility-specific input data are used in the calculations.
 - ii. Please explain in detail how values for “Trips on Time % Extra Trips” are calculated and what facility-specific input data are used in the calculations.
 - iii. Please explain the difference between the “Trips on Time Rate” and “Trips on Time % Extra Trips” scores.
 - iv. Please explain in detail how values for “Trips on Time Avg” are calculated and what facility-specific input data are used in the calculations.
 - c. Please explain the difference between SV NPA Score and each of the trips-on-time indicators referenced in question 3.b. (“Trips on Time Rate,” “Trips on Time % Extra Trips,” and “Trips on Time Avg”).
 - d. Please explain the difference in the number of facilities for which the Postal Service provides SV NPA Scores and the number of facilities for which it provides trips-on-time scores.⁴
4. For all transportation hubs, such as surface transfer centers (STCs) that include flats mail flows, please provide the following information. If any of the requested

³ See tabs “FY21 TOT,” “FY20 TOT,” “FY19 TOT,” and “FY18 TOT.”

⁴ *E.g.*, for FY 2021, the Postal Service provides SV NPA Scores for 376 facilities (see tab “FY21 SV NPA Data”) and it provides Trips-on-Time scores for 284 facilities (see tab “FY21 TOT”).

information is not available for any individual facility or group of facilities, please explain why this information is unavailable.

- a. Finance Number
- b. Facility ID
- c. Surface Visibility site ID (if different from Facility ID requested in question 4.b.)
- d. Facility physical address including the 5-digit ZIP Code
- e. Geographical coordinates identifying the location for each facility (latitude and longitude)
- f. Operation types performed at this facility, including cross-dock, any sortation or rerouting
- g. Interior square footage

Mail Processing

- 5. Please refer to Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP31, Zip file “USPS-FY21-NP31.zip,” folder “Rule 3050.50 Flats,” folder “Paragraph (e) -- Pinch Point Nonpublic Reports,” folder “e.2 Mail Processing Variance,” Excel file “NONPUBLIC MP Variance FY17_21.xlsb.”
 - a. Please discuss whether the Postal Service is considering setting new, more achievable productivity targets. If not, please explain why.
 - b. Please confirm that the referenced Excel file was developed using the Management Operating System (MODS) data from Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP18, December 29, 2021. If not confirmed, please list the source data.
 - c. If question 5.b. is confirmed, please describe all the steps involved in moving from the MODS data to the finished Excel file “NONPUBLIC MP

Variance FY17_21.xlsx.” If applicable, please provide a SAS or other program showing the file development process, and calculation steps. In your response, please include for each mail processing category group, the MODS operation codes⁵ used to aggregate to the mail processing category group.

- d. Please specify and describe for each mail processing category group in Excel file “NONPUBLIC MP Variance FY17_21.xlsx,” all the differences in the calculations, aggregation, and screening procedures between the mail processing productivities in Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-23, Excel file “YRscrub2021.xlsx.”⁶
6. For all mail processing facilities that process flat-shaped mail and not included in the response to question 4., please provide the following information. If any of the requested information is not available for any individual facility or group of facilities, please explain why this information is unavailable.
- a. Finance Number
 - b. Facility ID
 - c. Surface Visibility site ID, if different from Facility ID requested in question 6.b.
 - d. Facility physical address including the 5-digit ZIP Code
 - e. Geographical coordinates identifying the location of each facility (latitude and longitude)
 - f. National Air and Surface System (NASS) facility type

⁵ “MODS operations, represented by a 3-digit number, are provided for recording all work hours in Postal Service facilities according to function or activity performed.” See Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-7, PDF file “M-32 MODS Handbook.pdf,” Section A-1 at 113.

⁶ Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-23, December 29, 2021, Excel file “YRscrub2021.xlsx.”

- g. Interior square footage

Delivery Data

- 7. For all destination delivery units (DDUs), please provide the following information. If any of the requested information is not available for an individual facility or group of facilities, please explain why this information is unavailable.
 - a. Finance Number
 - b. Facility name
 - c. Facility ID
 - d. Surface Visibility Site ID (if different from the Facility ID requested in question 7.c.)
 - e. Dropship address including the 5-digit ZIP Code
 - f. 5-digit ZIP Codes serviced by this DDU
 - g. Dropship geographical coordinates (longitude and latitude)
 - h. Count of City Routes and Rural Routes associated with the DDU
 - i. Identification of process & distribution centers (P&DCs) that service each DDU
 - j. Identification of network distribution centers (NDCs) that service each P&DC
 - k. Identification of all DDUs that are serviced by Flats Sequencing System (FSS) machines

Collection and Preparation

- 8. Please refer to Docket No. ACR2021, Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP31, Zip file “USPS-FY21-NP31.zip,” folder “Rule 3050.50 Flats,” folder “Paragraph (e) -- Pinch Point Nonpublic Reports,” folder “e.1 Bundle Breakage Visibility,” Excel file “FY17_FY21.Bundle.Brkge.E1_NonPublic.xlsx (Bundle Breakage Dataset).”

- a. Please confirm there are fewer unique facilities listed in the Bundle Breakage Dataset compared to Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP31, Excel file “NONPUBLIC MP Variance FY17_21.xlsx.”
- b. If question 8.a. is confirmed, please explain why there are fewer facilities included in the Bundle Breakage Dataset.
- c. Please discuss whether, in addition to the Bundle Breakage Dataset, there is any facility-level data that includes flats costs or flat volumes of collection and preparation activities.

By the Chairman.

Michael Kubayanda